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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 15 September; urges Liberian parties to install Council of State, observe cease-fire and disengage all forces.
- * Security Council extends MINURSO mandate until 30 September; stresses need for parties to resume participation in implementation of Settlement Plan for Western Sahara.
- * Secretary-General meets with Swiss President and Foreign Minister in Bern; says he regards Switzerland as integral part of United Nations system and expresses thanks for its support.
- * UNHCR warns humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo might not be resumed because of deteriorating security situation and refusal of Bosnian Serbs to give safety assurances.
- * Economic and Social Council considers coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences; UNDP Administrator initiates consultation process on possible coordination mechanisms.
- * United Nations to host policy dialogue on African development in Geneva on 3 July; proposals to feed into Economic and Social Council high-level segment.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 15 September. It stressed that continued international support for the peace process there, including the continued presence of the Mission, depended on immediate actions by the Liberian parties to peacefully resolve their differences and achieve national reconciliation. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1,001 (1995).

The Council urged the Liberian parties to make serious and substantial process towards implementing the Akosombo and Accra Agreements. It specifically urged them to install the Council of State; reestablish a comprehensive and effective cease-fire; disengage all forces; and create an agreed timetable and

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schedule for the implementation of all other aspects of the Agreements, particularly the disarmament process. UNOMIL's mandate would not be renewed on 15 September if those requirements were not met.

If significant progress were made, the Council said it would consider restoring UNOMIL to its full strength, with appropriate adjustments to its mandate and the relationship with the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to enable the two operations to carry out their functions more effectively. It demanded once more that all factions in Liberia strictly respect the status of ECOMOG and UNOMIL personnel, as well as organizations delivering humanitarian assistance throughout the country. It further demanded that they facilitate such deliveries and strictly abide by international humanitarian law.

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In a second meeting today, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 September. It reiterated its commitment to holding, without further delay, a free, fair and impartial referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the Settlement Plan. The Council expressed concern that, given the complexity of the tasks to be performed and the continuing interruptions caused by the two parties, implementation of the Plan had been further delayed.

In unanimously adopting resolution 1,002 (1995), the Council called on the parties to work with the Secretary-General and MINURSO in a spirit of genuine cooperation to implement the Settlement Plan. It stressed the need for the parties to refrain from any actions that hindered that process, and called on them to reconsider recent relevant decisions with a view to establishing confidence. In that regard, it asked the Secretary-General to make every effort to persuade them to resume their participation in the Plan's implementation.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 10 September on the progress achieved in Western Sahara. It expected to be able, on the basis of that report, to confirm 15 November as the start of the transitional period, to allow the referendum to take place early in 1996. The Council said it would consider extending the mandate after 30 September based on the Secretary-General's report and in the light of progress achieved towards the holding of the referendum and the implementation of the Settlement Plan.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Bern today on an official visit to Switzerland, according to a United Nations spokesman. He met with the Federal President and Foreign Minister and other senior Swiss officials. The Secretary-General said he regarded Switzerland as an integral part of the United Nations system, although it was not a Member State, and expressed his

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gratitude for its support for the Organization. He also briefed the President on efforts to promote peace, democracy and development, which were the pillars of a secure and harmonious world.

The Secretary-General and the President discussed a wide range of issues relating to peace and security, including the role of regional organizations in relation to United Nations peace efforts. Mr. Boutros-Chali then attended a luncheon given in his honour by the Federal Council, and later met with the Forum of Swiss Non-Governmental Organizations.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned that its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo might not be resumed, having been suspended for nearly three months. It said the deteriorating security situation in the city, the refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to give safety assurances, and the refusal of the warring sides to discuss the reopening of the airport were preventing the resumption of the airlift.

Meanwhile, fighting in the western suburbs of Sarajevo died down today, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) sector headquarters was hit by artillery rounds last night, although there were no injuries. This morning, five rounds landed near the residence of the Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith.

In another development, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt, will travel to the region tomorrow. They are expected to have several days of high-level meetings in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Croatia.

The Economic and Social Council has been discussing ways in which the United Nations system should coordinate follow-up to the six major conferences held over the last five years in the economic, social and related fields. The Council is currently holding its 1995 substantive session in Geneva. The six conferences are: the World Summit for Children; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) VIII; the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED); the World Conference on Human Rights; the International Conference on Population and Development; and the World Summit for Social Development.

The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Nitin Desai, told the Council that the six conferences were linked by their elaborate processes and common issues. They constituted a continuum, although each had its own constituency and specific concern. The Council's challenge was to combine what was common to all the conferences with what was specific to them.

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The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James Gustave Speth, said he had begun a process of consultation among senior United Nations officials on possible coordination mechanisms on conference follow-up. That initiative had been taken at the request of the Secretary-General. The aim was to mobilize the United Nations system by establishing thematic inter-agency task forces to serve as the follow-up mechanisms at the regional and country levels.

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Senior development experts from African and donor governments and non-governmental organizations will meet in Geneva on 3 July to discuss African development policy. The meeting will be attended by the Secretary-General, and the proposals resulting from it will feed into the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council session from 4 to 6 July. That segment will focus on the "Development of Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

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